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Attorney Docket: 420/50498
PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants: Torsten LORENZ et al.

Serial No.: 09/976,265

Group Art Unit: 1733

Filed: October 15, 2001

Examiner: J. Rossi

Title: METHOD FOR PRODUCING PREFORMS FROM FIBER COMPOSITES
AS WELL AS PREFORM PRODUCED WITH THIS METHOD

REPLY

Director of the United States
Patent and Trademark Office
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

This Reply is filed in response to the Office Action originally mailed on December 9, 2003, and re-mailed on December 17, 2003. Claim 7 remains in this application.

A response to the last Office Action generated in connection with co-pending divisional application serial no. 10/373,107, mailed August 13, 2003, has not been filed, and that divisional application is now abandoned. It follows, therefore, that the provisional obviousness-type double patenting rejection set forth in section 8 on page 5 of the Office Action to which this Reply responds is moot.

Claim 7 is rejected as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent 5,677,029 to Prevorsek et al. in view of U.S. Patent 5,006,293 to Hartman et al. Claim 7 is also rejected as being unpatentable over the Prevorsek et al. and Hartman et al. patents

in view of U.S. Patent 5,175,040 to Harpell et al. and European Patent Application 0 233 700 A2 to Sloman. Reconsideration of these rejections is requested.

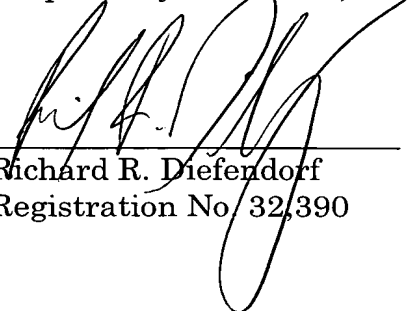
In the rejection of claim 7 based on the Prevorsek et al. and Hartman et al. patents, set forth in section 5 on pages 2-4 of the Office Action, the Examiner asserts that the Prevorsek et al. patent "teaches molding the fabric and polymer layers by subjecting the same to heat and pressure (column 22, lines 1-6) wherein the skilled artisan would have readily appreciated that such would only be possible with the aid of some type of working surface." Lines 1-6 in column 22 of the Prevorsek et al. patent, however, do not discuss any working surface, let alone alternately placing semi-finished product sections and polymer layers on top of each other to initially form a bonded fabric on such a working surface as claim 7 requires.

Even assuming that the Examiner is correct in asserting that the fabrication procedure discussed in column 22, lines 1-6 of the Prevorsek et al. patent specification would only be possible with the aid of some type of working surface, moreover, it is respectfully submitted that the Hartman et al. patent relied on does not in fact suggest providing a separating foil to such a working surface. In lines 40-55 of column 8, the Hartman et al. patent discusses the use of a mold release film for the particular impregnating composition of Hartman et al. Example I. Nothing properly relied on by the Examiner in any way suggests that a separating foil is necessary, desirable, or even properly useable in a method for producing fabric articles having the particular compositions discussed throughout the Prevorsek et al. patent. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claim 7 set forth in section 5 on pages 2-4 of the Office Action are in order and are requested.

In the rejection of claim 7 set forth in section 6 on page 4 of the Office Action, the Examiner refers to the discussion appearing in lines 27-29 on page 3 of the Sloman publication and to the discussion appearing in lines 40-56 in column 8 of the Harpell et al. patent. Neither of these discussions, however, suggests either the alternatively placing operation particularly defined by claim 7 or the provision of a separating foil to a working surface in a method for producing fabric articles having the particular compositions discussed throughout the Prevorsek et al. patent disclosure. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claim 7 set forth in section 6 of the Office Action are also in order and are requested.

This application is in condition for allowance in its present form for reasons discussed above. Should the Examiner have any questions after considering this Reply, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,



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